1971. In the National Capital Territory of Delhi, railways have agreed to bear part cost of relocation of Pre-1998 encroachers located on Railway land in 'Safety Zone' and on land required for execution of sanctioned projects, as per the Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy of Delhi Government, which has the approval of the Ministry of Urban Development. Northern Railway have deposited over Rs.11 crores with the Government of Delhi on this account, for relocating 'Jhuggies Jhopries', to get encroachments removed from railway land. Regular chasing and meetings are done by railway officials with Delhi Government officials. All efforts are made by railway towards proper co-ordination with the Government of Delhi including seeking assistance of local police and Magistrate as eviction of encroachers often lead to law and order problems. The co-operation of the Government of Delhi in removal of encroachers has not been adequate.

Connecting Kashmir valley to rest of India

2102. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway's ambitious project to connect Kashmir valley to rest of India through Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway track is going to cost almost two and half times more than what was estimated earlier;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) what is the budget and time frame for this project alongwith the details. thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) and (b) The rough estimated cost at the time of preparation of project report was assessed as Rs. 3077 crore. Now, the cost has been estimated as Rs. 11,270 crore after completion of detailed engineering survey. Earlier estimate was prepared on the basis of topo sheets and aerial photographs as detailed survey could not be completed due to highly difficult inaccessible terrain and adverse condition/ situation of the area.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 1700 crore has been proposed as an additionality during 2007-08. An expenditure of Rs. 3836 crore has been incurred upto March, 2007. The project is proposed for completion as per following schedule:-

Udhampur-Katra - December, 2008.

Katra-Qazigund - 2011 -12.

Qazigund-Baramulla - May, 2008.

Dependence on BSNL regarding PRS services

2103. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is facing difficulties on links to BSNL in regard to their PRS services; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce dependence on BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There have been few cases ' Passenger Reservation System (PRS) failures due to interruptions in BSNL owned communication channels in remote areas. These failures are immediately brought to the BSNL authorities for rectification.

To ensure uninterrupted functioning of PRS, stand by communication channels through Railway Optical Fiber Cable and Railtel media are also provided, wherever feasible.

Railway board employees holding elective office in Kendriya Bhandar

2104. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Board employees, New Delhi granted permission to hold an elective office in the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd. (Kendriya Bhandar) as per the provisions of Rule 15 of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 togetherwith copies of their applications and permission granted thereon during the year 2007;

(b) whether there is any proposal to direct all such employees who are holding an elective office in Kendriya Bhandar without the previous sanction of Government, to discontinue holding an elective office in Kendriya Bhandar forthwith; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) The employees of Railway Board are not governed by Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Coach maintenance depot

2105. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that setting up of a Coach Maintenance Depot at Ajni (Nagpur) has been recommended by the Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether the case is pending for consideration in the Railway Board (member Traffic); and

(c) by when this Coach Maintenance Depot would be set-up and commence its operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal for augmentation of coaching complex at Ajni at a cost of Rs. 8.93 crores has been received by the Railway Board in July, 2007. This proposal is under consideration.